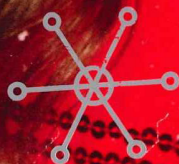
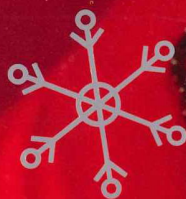


Holiday 2014

American
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Holiday



Your
Special
Issue



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AMERICAN GIRL IS PUBLISHED BY
AMERICAN GIRL PUBLISHING
8400 Fairway Place
Middleton WI 53562

E-mail address: readermail@americangirl.com
americangirlmagazine.com



The National
Magazine
Awards Finalist

Recommended by
Parents' Choice,
2013



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Your
Special



Safety first!

Some of our projects and activities require an adult's help. When you see this symbol, be sure to ask an adult to work with you.

Elf Br



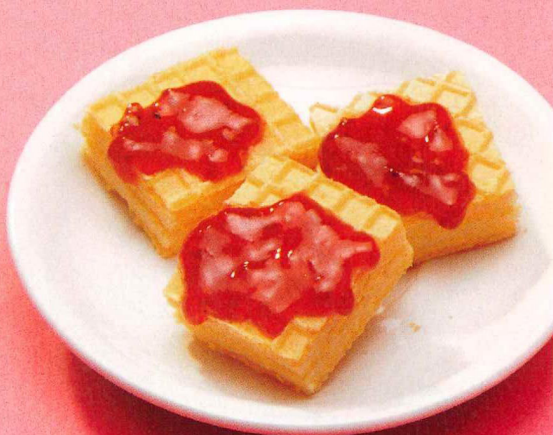
eakfast!

Make a
mini meal to
celebrate the
season.



Waffles

Whip up a batch of itty-bitty waffles on a winter day. Cut waffle-shaped layer cookies into squares with a butter knife. Add your favorite toppings.



Arrange the doughnuts in a tiny box lined with wax paper.



Box of Doughnuts

Serve a variety of teeny doughnuts hot off the line! Use circle-shaped cereal pieces for plain doughnuts or toss some in a sandwich bag with powdered sugar. With an adult's help, melt 2 tablespoons

of chocolate chips. Dip the cereal tops in chocolate, adding sprinkles to some. (If a hole gets clogged, poke it clean with a toothpick.) Let set. Serve with a tiny milk!

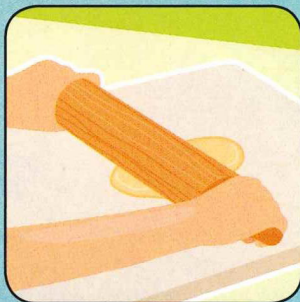
YOU WILL NEED



An adult to help

- * rolling pin
- * single home-style refrigerated biscuit, unbaked
- * flour
- * baking sheet
- * ½ teaspoon butter
- * ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- * 1 teaspoon sugar
- * kitchen scissors
- * 1½ teaspoons water
- * 2 tablespoons powdered sugar

Cinnamon Rolls



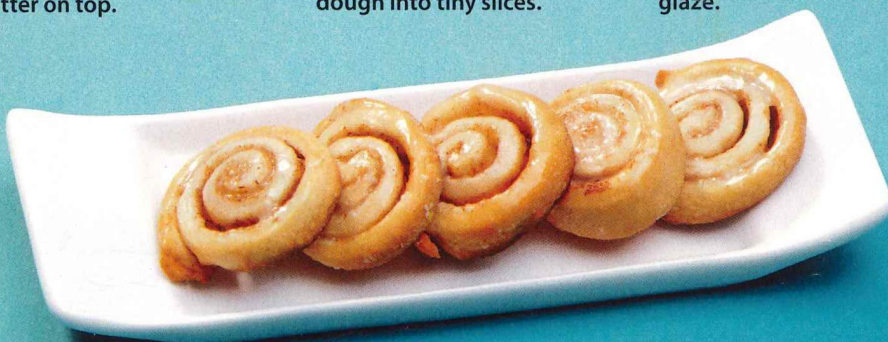
1. Ask an adult to help with this recipe. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. On a floured baking sheet, roll out the biscuit until it's pancake-thin. Spread butter on top.



2. Mix cinnamon and sugar in a bowl, sprinkle the mixture onto the biscuit, and then roll the biscuit lengthwise into a snake. Pinch the edges. Cut the dough into tiny slices.



3. Bake rolls for 7 minutes or until lightly browned. Let cool. Mix water and powdered sugar in a bowl until smooth. Dip the top of each roll into glaze.



YOU WILL NEED



An adult to help

- * single crescent roll triangle, unbaked
- * rolling pin
- * pizza cutter
- * baking sheet

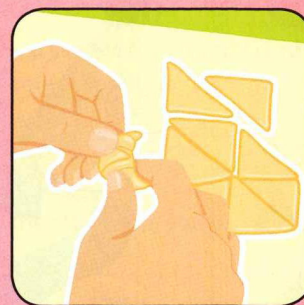
Croissants



1. Ask an adult to help with this recipe. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Unroll dough and flatten with rolling pin until it's as thin as a tortilla.



2. Cut dough into small triangles, with the base of each triangle about 1 inch. Start at the wide end, and roll triangle toward the tip.



3. Pinch down tip. Curl croissant ends into a crescent. Lay on baking sheet. Bake croissants for 7 minutes or until lightly browned. Let cool on sheet.



For chocolate croissants, ask an adult to melt a few chocolate chips in a microwave. Use a toothpick to drizzle the chocolate.

YOU WILL NEED



An adult to help

- * 2 white candy melts
- * 2 yellow candy-covered chocolates
- * 1 chocolate chew
- * cheese grater
- * 3 toast-like cereal pieces
- * candy orange slice

Eggs and Sausage

Serve up a Sunday feast! With an adult's help, microwave melts in 20-second bursts until melted. Press a yellow chocolate into each melt. Shape tiny pieces of chewy chocolate into link sausages, and then lightly roll them on the grater to create grill marks. Arrange treats on a plate with the cereal and orange candy.



Cookies for Santa

These cute cookies taste as good as their larger cousins. With an adult's help, preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Using clean hands, roll marble-sized pieces of refrigerated peanut butter cookie dough in sugar, and lay them on a baking sheet. Bake cookies for 6 to 7 minutes, and then top each with a chocolate chip when they come out of the oven. Let cool. ★



Quiz the Season!

Answer 100 questions to discover which dream winter vacation is perfect for you. Keep track of your **blue**, **green**, or **pink** answers by adding them up in the spaces provided.



1. You'd love to learn how to **rock climb**.
knit a scarf.
Create frosting flowers on a cake.

2. Your family **is involved in a lot of activities**.
loves animals.
eats dinner together most nights.

3. At school, you **take on challenges**.
listen well in class.
ask a lot of questions.

4. Your best friend **makes you grin**.
throws slumber parties.
tries new things with you.

5. If you were a bird, you'd **fly over the clouds**.
make a comfy nest.
have pretty feathers.

6. After school, you **go to a sports practice**.
read for fun.
make a snack.

7. Your favorite shoes **help you run faster**.
feel like slippers.
are decorated with beads or sequins.

8. Your breakfast is **on-the-go**.
warm and filling.
homemade.



9. An awesome gift is **a new bike**.
an entire book series.
a craft room full of supplies.

10. You like to wear **bright colors**.
soft pastels.
patterns.



11. If you make a mistake, you **find a way to laugh about it**.
think through an apology.
learn from it and move on.

12. You're known for caring about **the environment**.
your pets.
your education.

13. For movie night, you like to **play games as you watch**.
wrap yourself in a blanket.
break out munchies you made.

14. Your favorite gum **is minty and refreshing**.
is cinnamon-flavored.
tastes like ice cream.

15. The music you like is **upbeat and peppy**.
quiet and peaceful.
fresh and unique.



16. At a restaurant, you'd order something you've not tried before.
comfort food.
dessert after dinner.

17. When you have a problem, you talk it out with a parent.
usually solve it on your own.
can count on friends to help.

18. Your idea of a perfect afternoon is one that is spent outside.
uninterrupted time with a book.
sketching for hours.

19. A word that describes you is spunky.
relaxed.
brave.

20. At an indoor water park, you'd go down the fastest slide.
float in the lazy river.
play with other kids.

21. During study hall, you finish all of your homework.
read during the quiet time.
brainstorm new ways to study.

25. You'd like to receive a gift card for a store that sells outdoor gear.
a pet-supplies store.
a fancy grocery store.

26. In the afternoon, you usually feel energized.
a little sleepy.
hungry.

27. You enjoy reading stories that are full of adventure.
make you feel warm and happy.
are descriptive and full of life.



28. You like holiday decorations that light up brightly.
make things look extra cozy.
are made out of gingerbread.



22. You have way too many sunglasses.
pairs of pajamas.
markers.

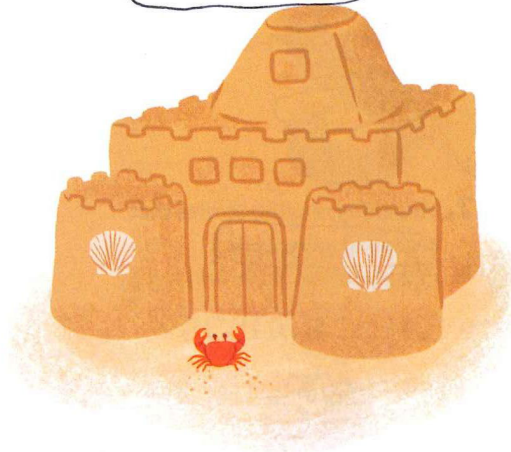
23. With your younger siblings, you come up with fun things to do.
settle disagreements.
give them advice.

24. A sound you love is laughter.
blowing wind.
scissors cutting paper.

Count your answers from these two pages.



29. During a beach vacation, you'd
learn how to surf.
read magazines in a hammock.
create sand sculptures.



30. On your desk at home, there is
a stack of silly photos.
a laptop.
a card from a pal.

31. An animal that represents you is
a cheetah.
a bunny.
a parrot.

32. With your mom, you like to
go for long walks.
read together.
help make dinner.

33. You might daydream about
breaking a world record.
meeting a book character.
creating your own fashion line.



34. At the end of a long day, you
get outside for fresh air.
take a bubble bath.
doodle.

35. You like to give cards that
are laugh-out-loud funny.
have animals on them.
you designed yourself.



36. Your perfect moneymaker is
dog walking.
selling hot chocolate at events.
teaching little kids how to cook.

37. At a concert, you'd
show off your dance moves.
take lots of pictures.
sing along with your friends.

38. A yummy hot drink would be
spicy apple cider.
vanilla-flavored tea.
red-velvet hot cocoa.

39. Someday you want to
travel around the world.
be a published author.
become a teacher.

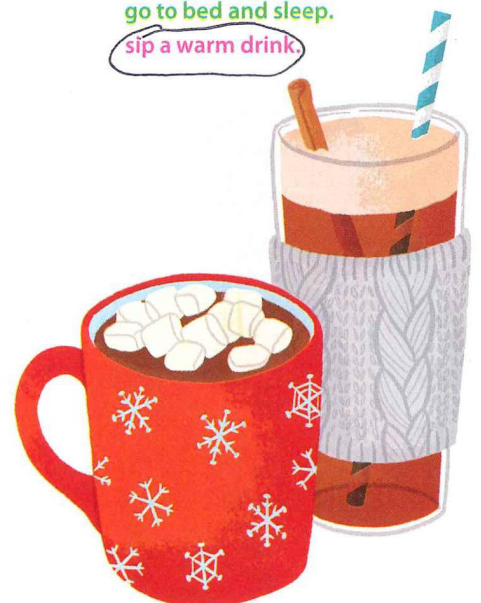
40. Doing your hair, you'd grab
a ponytail elastic.
a crocheted headband.
a glittery barrette.

41. On a blank piece of paper, you'd
jot down inspiring quotes.
write a poem.
draw cartoons.

42. You can't resist
buying another winter sweater.
reading a book over and over.
a plate of brownies.

43. Your room is
colorful.
comfortable.
one-of-a-kind.

44. Oh no, you have a cold! So you
have a movie marathon.
go to bed and sleep.
sip a warm drink.

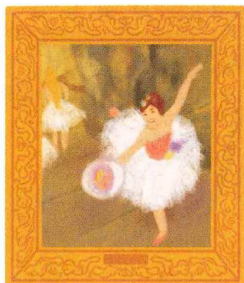
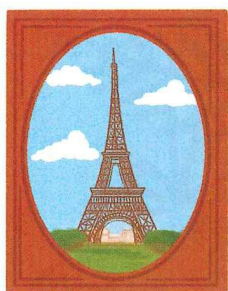




45. On your birthday, you love
 throwing a big bash.
 reading nice cards from people.
 eating a slice of cake.

46. Something that stresses you out is
 waiting in line.
 lots of noise.
 being late for class.

47. In Paris, you'd go to
 the top of the Eiffel Tower.
 a park where you can sit.
 a famous art museum.



48. When you first wake up, you
 jump out of bed, ready to go.
 hit the snooze button.
 glance at your school calendar.

49. When you play a game, you
 get really competitive.
 read the instructions first.
 try to outsmart other players.

50. Your parents
 support your big goals.
 make you feel good about yourself.
 teach you life lessons.

51. During a favorite TV show, you
 cheer about exciting scenes.
 think about what lines you'd write.
 call a friend to talk about it.

52. You love your home because
 there
 is a lot of hustle and bustle.
 are little nooks everywhere.
 are yummy meals to share
 together.

53. Pets are
 fun to play with.
 great for cuddling.
 perfect sidekicks.

54. If you feel tired, you
 splash cold water on your face.
 take a quick catnap.
 use peppermint-scented lotion.

55. For a school play, you'd
 try out for the lead part.
 work behind the scenes.
 provide snacks for the actors.

56. Your favorite craft materials are
 things you've found outside.
 soft and fuzzy fabrics.
 sparkly.

57. If you painted your nails, you might
 use neon colors.
 paint hearts or shapes on them.
 mix colors together.



Count your answers
 from these two pages.



58. You'd join a club in which members
go on outdoor trips.
talk about books.
learn cooking tips and tricks.

59. Your friend is moving away, so you
organize a party for her.
have a sleepover with her.
make her a sentimental gift.

60. You like to collect
interesting rocks.
stuffed animals.
friendship bracelets.



61. When you study, you
think of ways to make it fun.
need to do it alone in your room.
prefer to buddy up with a friend.



62. You'd probably win an award for
placing first in a race.
writing a newspaper article.
an experiment in a science fair.

63. To learn something new, you
practice it over and over again.
get focused and clear your head.
ask an expert for help.

64. Change is
exciting.
something you do in small steps.
a good learning experience.

65. If you lived in a castle, you'd
ride a horse on the grounds.
find secret rooms and passageways.
throw balls and dinner parties.

66. Your favorite ornament is
a souvenir from a family vacation.
a furry forest creature.
handmade.

67. Your smile is
big and beaming.
warm and welcoming.
nice and friendly.

68. If you set a goal, you
go after it with all your heart.
work on it at your own pace.
learn all you can about reaching it.



69. If you wanted a new haircut, you'd
tell the stylist to surprise you.
not to do anything too drastic.
bring pictures of hairstyles you like.

70. Your mind is
full of imaginative ideas.
cool, calm, and collected.
great at problem solving.





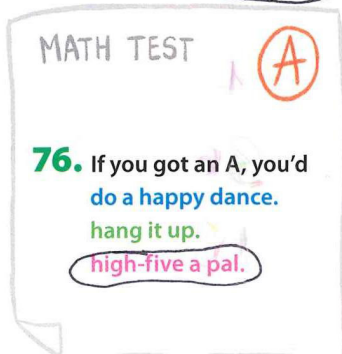
71. Rainy days are
a little boring.
cozy.
perfect for doing indoor projects.

72. You spread holiday cheer by
helping a parent put up lights.
sending greeting cards.
bringing cookies to neighbors.

73. Your fantasy lifetime supply is
lift passes at a ski resort.
books.
baking ingredients.

74. At the lunch table, you
share funny stories.
listen to friends vent.
bring the yummiest lunches.

75. When you sing, your voice is
loud and proud.
smooth and steady.
matched well with other singers.



77. Your favorite T-shirt has
a logo of a sports team.
a picture of a cute animal.
a design you created yourself.

78. At an ice cream shop, you'd
cover a scoop in bright sprinkles.
top your treat with hot fudge.
create a brand-new sundae.

79. A class you look forward to is
gym.
English.
art.

80. Your favorite quick snack is
a frozen-yogurt bar.
a cheese quesadilla.
a chocolate-covered strawberry.

81. In your backpack, you always carry
your planner.
a sweatshirt.
a granola bar or fruit.

82. At school, you'd sign up for
a team try-out.
volunteering at an animal shelter.
a bake sale.

83. When you're at the library, you
head to a computer to play a game.
read a good book in a quiet corner.
look at a calendar of events.

84. In your notebook, we would find
silly doodles.
stories.
a "to do" list.

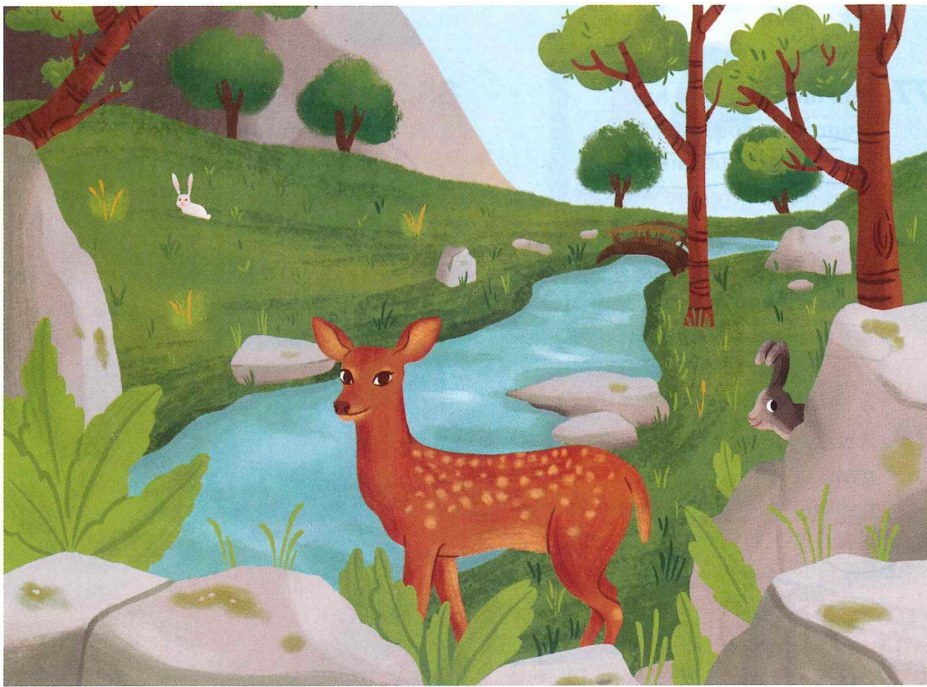
85. You might cheer up a pal by
inviting her to do something fun.
writing a funny note to her.
making cupcakes together.

86. On New Year's Eve, you like to
give every person a noisemaker.
reflect on the past year.
help make a special meal.



Count your answers
from these two pages.





87. You feel good when you
 spend time in nature.
 snuggle in your bed.
 do something sweet for someone.

88. In your nightstand, there are
 lip glosses in tons of flavors.
 a few journals.
 favorite friend photos.



89. A necklace you wear
 often has
 lots of colors.
 a phrase you like on it.
 lots of rhinestones.

90. If you can't fall asleep, you might
 switch on a TV.
 turn on classical music.
 have a midnight snack.

91. A Thanksgiving food you like is
 tangy cranberry sauce.
 warm stuffing.
 homemade pumpkin pie.

92. You have ten free minutes,
 so you
 kick around a ball in the backyard.
 start another chapter of your book.
 answer a few text messages.

93. If your house had a blackout,
 you'd
 pull out the board-games.
 like how peaceful it was.
 make a no-cook dinner.

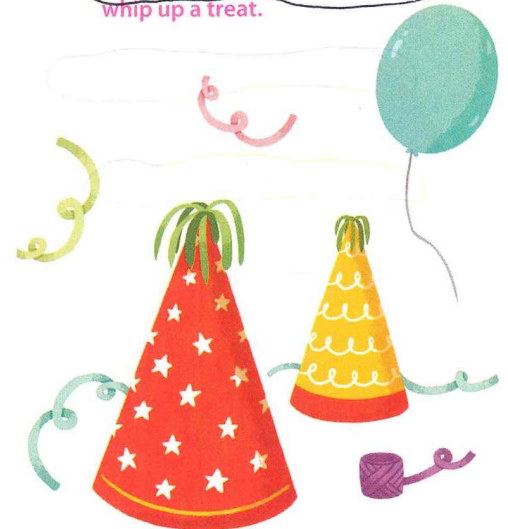
94. You can always be counted on to
 come up with off-the-wall ideas.
 show love to animals.
 be there for your friends

95. You'd trade places with
 a famous explorer.
 a published writer.
 an artist you admire.

96. When you feel nervous, you
 pace back and forth.
 want to be on your own.
 talk to a friend.

97. You'd love to get tickets to see
 your favorite sports team.
 a Broadway play.
 a taping of a cooking show.

98. On a day off from school, you might
 go to a state park with your family.
 spend the day in your pajamas.
 whip up a treat.



99. At a surprise party, you'd
 jump up and yell, "Surprise!"
 be sure to keep it a secret.
 help put up decorations.

100. After taking this quiz, you'll
 bundle up and go outside.
 pick up a book to read.
 have a bite to eat.

**You're done! Add up
 your answers from
 all of the pages.**



Answers

Mostly blue: Ski Dream

You're always up for excitement, so you'd travel to a snowy mountain for nonstop winter fun. You'd stay at a ski lodge, complete with slopes, an ice rink, and snowshoeing trails. And in your suitcase,

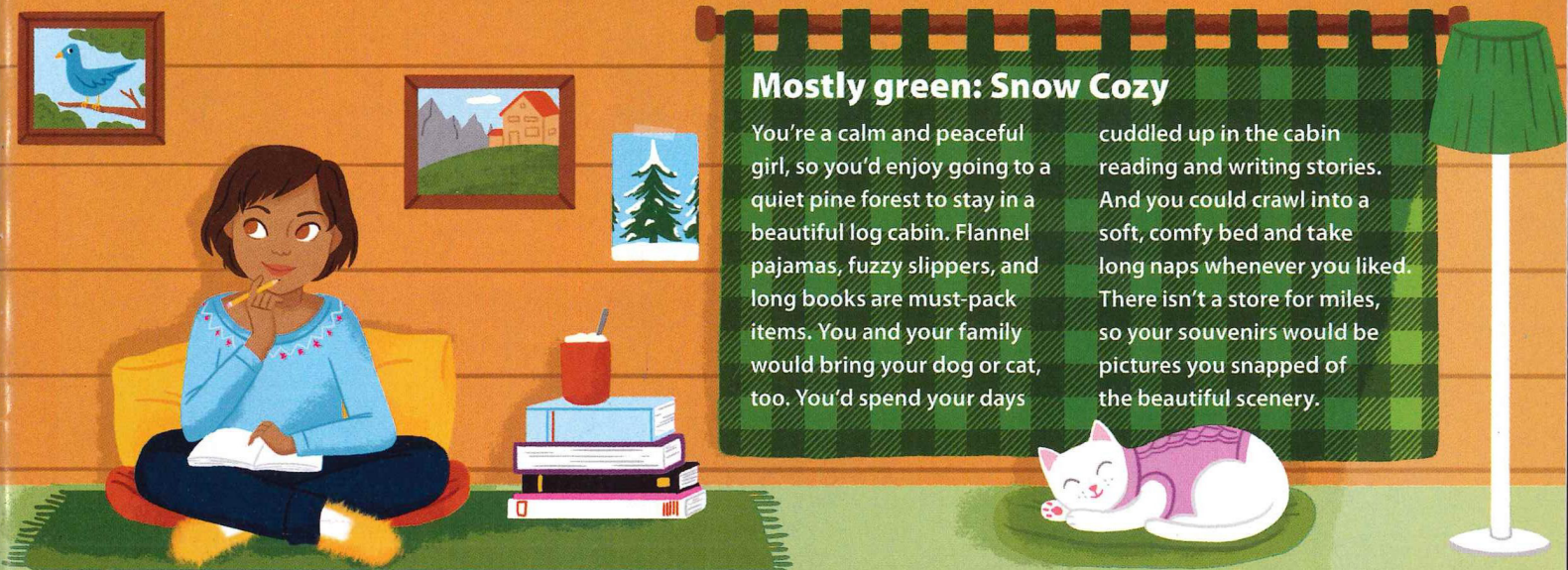
we'd find your outdoor gear—goggles, boots, and warm clothes. You and your adventure-loving family would snowboard, skate, and hike, too. At the end of a chilly day, you'd curl up next to a window with hot chocolate and watch the flakes fall. And you'd never leave without getting a ski sweater from the gift shop.



Mostly green: Snow Cozy

You're a calm and peaceful girl, so you'd enjoy going to a quiet pine forest to stay in a beautiful log cabin. Flannel pajamas, fuzzy slippers, and long books are must-pack items. You and your family would bring your dog or cat, too. You'd spend your days

cuddled up in the cabin reading and writing stories. And you could crawl into a soft, comfy bed and take long naps whenever you liked. There isn't a store for miles, so your souvenirs would be pictures you snapped of the beautiful scenery.



Mostly pink: Imagination Destination

You love to get creative, so you'd have fun at a place where you could take lots of classes, from baking to bracelet making. Each hotel room would have a craft room and a kitchen, so you could keep practicing. You wouldn't leave home without an apron and art supplies. With a group

of pals, you'd learn how to decorate a cake, design a website, paint a masterpiece, and more. At the end of the day, you'd all go back to the room to whip up gingerbread cookies and make holiday cards. And you'd bring home a notebook full of things you learned. Fun! ★





Snowy Days

Maple Waffle Crunch

Pour maple cream topping over a scoop of vanilla ice cream. Then finish with a drizzle of warm maple syrup and waffle-cone pieces.



Maple Cream Topping

In a bowl, mix 1 tablespoon heavy whipping cream and 1 teaspoon maple syrup. Beat with a whisk until the cream starts to thicken (about 2 minutes).

Christmas Cookies-and-Cream

Top a scoop of vanilla ice cream with frosting topping, sugar-cookie pieces, and colored sprinkles.



Frosting Topping

In a small bowl, melt $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoon butter in the microwave. Add 2 tablespoons powdered sugar and stir until dissolved. Add $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon vanilla and 2–3 drops of red food coloring and stir.

 Ask an adult to help you when using the microwave.

y Sundaes

Celebrate winter with a hot-and-cold dessert!

Caramel Apple Crisp

Add warm apple topping, caramel sauce, and granola to a scoop of vanilla ice cream.



Apple Topping

Ask an adult to help you peel and chop 1 small apple. Place the apple in a microwaveable bowl. Stir in 1 teaspoon cinnamon-sugar until the apples are coated. Microwave on high for 1 minute. Stir the apples, and heat for 1 more minute. Ask the adult to remove the bowl from the microwave. Let cool slightly before topping your sundae.

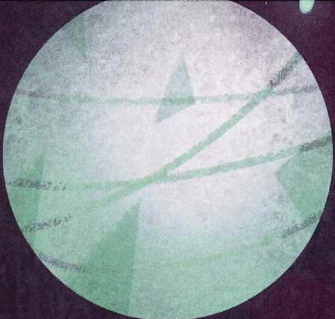
Pumpkin Marshmallow Pie

Start with a scoop of pumpkin ice cream; then add melted marshmallow topping and graham-cracker pieces.



Marshmallow Topping

Place 1 teaspoon water and 2 tablespoons marshmallow cream in a small microwaveable bowl. Microwave on high for 15 seconds. Stir until smooth. Ask an adult to help you spread the topping on your ice cream. ★



Winter Wonder

How to spend your winter days—from the first flake to the last puddle!

Cozy Camp-Out

 Summer isn't the only time to pitch a tent. Invite your friends for a winter camp-out—indoors! Ask an adult to help you hang twinkle lights for stars or icicles and a round paper lantern for a moon. Drape sheets over furniture to create snowdrifts.

Then circle your sleeping bags around a pretend "campfire": Layer a few pieces of yellow, orange, and red tissue paper. Place a battery-powered LED light inside and fold the ends of the paper up around the light. Sweet dreams!





Cider Sippers

Spice up apple cider by adding a new flavor! Start with an 8-ounce mug of apple cider and stir in one of the following flavors. Then heat it in a microwave until warm.

- * Citrus: Add 1 tablespoon orange juice to apple cider.
- * Vanilla: Add ½ teaspoon vanilla extract.
- * Caramel: Add ½ tablespoon caramel syrup.

Microwave Melts

 Warm up with a sandwich melt. Start with two soft tortillas on a microwaveable plate. Top one tortilla with a filling and place the second tortilla on top. Microwave on high for 30 seconds at a time until the tortilla is warm and the cheese is melted. Ask an adult to use a pizza cutter to cut the melt into wedges. Serve with soup for a toasty meal!

- * Broccoli & Cheese: Top a tortilla with ¼ cup cooked broccoli and ¼ cup shredded cheddar cheese.
- * Pizza-dilla: Spread 3 tablespoons tomato sauce on a tortilla and sprinkle ¼ cup shredded mozzarella cheese. Then finish off with your favorite pizza toppings: veggies (cooked), pepperoni, or even pineapple!
- * Apples & Cheese: Ask an adult to peel and slice an apple into thin slices. Arrange the apple slices on top of one tortilla. Then sprinkle ¼ cup shredded cheese on top.





Snowman Costumes

Dress your snowmen in your old Halloween costumes or accessories such as a tiara, a pirate costume, or a cowboy hat. (Be sure to ask a parent's permission first.)

Speedy Snowmen

Have a snowman-building race. Challenge your friends and see what you can make in just one or two minutes!

Snow Gnomes

Make a group of mini snowmen. Then use pointed party hats and scarves to make them look like garden gnomes!

Ice Patches

Add some winter flair to an ordinary shirt! First, put on a shirt and mark the center of your elbows with masking tape so you know where the patches should go. (Ask a parent's permission before using a shirt for this craft.) Remove the shirt and lay it flat on a covered work surface. Place pieces of cardboard inside the sleeves underneath the elbows. Then try one of these elbow-patch ideas:

- * **Flakes:** Buy premade felt snowflake shapes. Then use fabric glue to attach a snowflake to each elbow. Let dry.
- * **Glitz:** Cut 2 identical shapes from glitter felt. (Tracing around a cookie cutter works well.) Use fabric glue to attach the shapes to the shirt's elbows. Let dry.
- * **Shimmer:** Use a round foam brush to "stamp" shimmery nontoxic fabric paint on each of the shirt's elbows. Let dry.



Snowball Strings

 Decorate your space in a flurry! Start with two adhesive-backed gift bows (try silver, white, or blue), and remove the paper backing. Attach the two bows together with a 1-foot piece of string in the middle. Ask an adult to help you hang them from the ceiling or above a window.

Snowy Smiles

No snow? You can still decorate a snowman! Start with a batch of round sugar cookies. Spread white frosting on top of each cookie. Sprinkle red sparkling sugar across the top edge for a hat. (You can also use red frosting.) Then make snowman faces using candy.

Try these ideas for snowman faces.

- * **Eyes:** chocolate chips or colored frosting
- * **Nose:** candy corn or gummy candy
- * **Mouth:** chocolate chips or black licorice





Bird Banners



Decorate outside with garlands the birds can eat! Start with a piece of thread that's at least 2 feet long, and thread it through a sewing needle. Then string popcorn (unsalted and unbuttered) and fresh cranberries on the thread. Once the thread is full, ask an adult to help you hang it from a bush or branch. Create as many as you'd like. Then watch your neighborhood birds flock!



Snow Motion

Brave the drifts and create a snowy obstacle course for you and your friends! Take turns running the course and timing each other. Set up these challenges in any order to create a custom course:

- * **Still Skater:** In this challenge, the player holds a "figure skater" pose for 10 seconds. If she can't hold it, she keeps trying until she can.
- * **Foot Race:** Before the race, create a set of footprints by walking in fresh snow. Afterward, the player can step only in the footprints.
- * **Slippery Walk:** The player carries an ice cube on a plastic spoon as she walks across the yard and back.
- * **Sled Pull:** The player fills a sled with buckets of snow (you choose the number) and pulls it to one side of the yard as fast as she can.
- * **Treasure Hunt:** Before the race, bury a plastic Easter egg in a pile of snow. The player digs it out as quickly as she can.

Winter Picnic

Bundle up for an outdoor picnic! Spread a plastic tablecloth on the ground. Then lay a blanket on top of the tablecloth. (This will help keep you dry.) Use a plastic sled for a table by turning it upside down. Next, bring out picnic foods such as sandwiches and fruit and travel mugs of hot cocoa or cider. (Be sure to ask a parent's permission before bringing food or picnic items outside.)



Pom-Pom Tree

 Create a tree that “blooms” in winter!

1. Ask an adult if you can use some small dead twigs from your yard (you can also find these at a craft store). Cut a piece of yarn that’s at least 1 foot long. Hold one end against a branch with the cut end pointing up. Wrap the yarn over the cut end and around the twig.
2. Continue wrapping as long as you’d like. (Wrap tightly with no space in between.) To end a color, trim the excess yarn and use craft glue to attach the end to the twig.
3. To hang pom-poms: Double-knot the end of a 4-inch piece of thread. Then use a needle to push the thread through a pom-pom (available at craft stores). Tie each pom-pom to a branch with the thread. Trim excess. Place the branches in a vase or jar.



Light-Up Letters

See your name in lights! Wrap wooden letters with a string of LED lights. Prop them on a shelf or dresser for a festive look.



Heart-Warmer Bracelets

Friendship bracelets don’t have to go away when summer does—winterize them! Instead of using embroidery floss, make friendship bracelets out of different types of yarn. You may have to use fewer pieces of yarn, but you’ll end up with soft and fuzzy jewelry. ★



GIFTS

Quick • Cute • Fun

Homemade
gift ideas for
everyone on
your list!



Shade Sleeve

Here's a simple case to protect sunglasses. Cut a piece of fleece that's 6½ inches by 7¼ inches. Fold the fleece in half lengthwise. Use tacky glue to close one short edge and one long edge, leaving one short edge open. Let dry. Decorate using ribbon and appliqués or patches.



Barrette Bouquet

This clever craft is a great way to store barrettes. Tie a few different-colored ribbons in tight knots around a key ring. Let the ends of the ribbons

hang, and attach a few cute barrettes or clips to the ribbons. The person who gets the gift can hang the ring on a hook or nail and use it to store hair stuff.



Earbud Buddy

This cute keeper protects earbuds from tangles and damage. Cut adhesive-backed felt to cover the lid of a clean candy tin. Peel the backing off and attach the felt to the tin. Cut ribbon to fit around the edge of the lid, and attach with sticky dots. Decorate the top with an appliqué.



Ribbon Headband

Make these pretty bands in contrasting colors. Cut a 1-foot piece of $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch-wide grosgrain ribbon. (That's the kind with the tiny ridges. Say it like this: GRO-grayn.) Then cut a 3-foot piece of $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch-wide grosgrain ribbon. Center the narrower ribbon on top of the wider ribbon. Attach with sticky dots, and press firmly. The headband ties in a bow at the nape of the neck.



Photo: Radlund Photography Styling: Ashley Franklin



Accessory Are

If you picked **mostly a's**, you're a . . . Locket Necklace.

It's fine to be shy. Just like a locket, you can have something new to show the world. You can be a fun dancer—public. Find a matter with c

Snowmonster Marker

This clever creature can save spots in a book! Cut the corner off an envelope. Then cut pieces of scrapbook paper to make your snowmonster's skin, eyes, and teeth. Attach with glue, and let dry.



Sparkly Stars

Plan ahead to make these easy ornaments. Design a star on paper. Place the paper on a rimmed cookie sheet and cover it with wax paper. Trace the star with a thick line of fabric glue. Cover the glue with glitter, and let dry for 24 hours. Tap off extra glitter, and then gently peel the star off the wax paper. Tie on a ribbon for hanging.



Neat Notebook

Personalize a nice, new notebook for someone. Flip to the back cover of a notebook (the cardboard). Near the outside edge, use a hole punch to make a hole in the top corner and the bottom corner. Close the notebook, and string a piece of elastic cording (found at fabric stores) around the front of the book and through the two holes on the back cover. Tie the cord in a double knot at the back of the notebook. Use a sticky dot to attach an appliqué to the front of the elastic cording.



Bitty Bobbies

Make pretty pins for someone's hair. Slide a pretty shank button (the kind with the loop on the back) onto a fancy bobby pin.



Bitty Bobbies alone make a great gift. You can also make some to go with Barrette Bouquet on page 23.



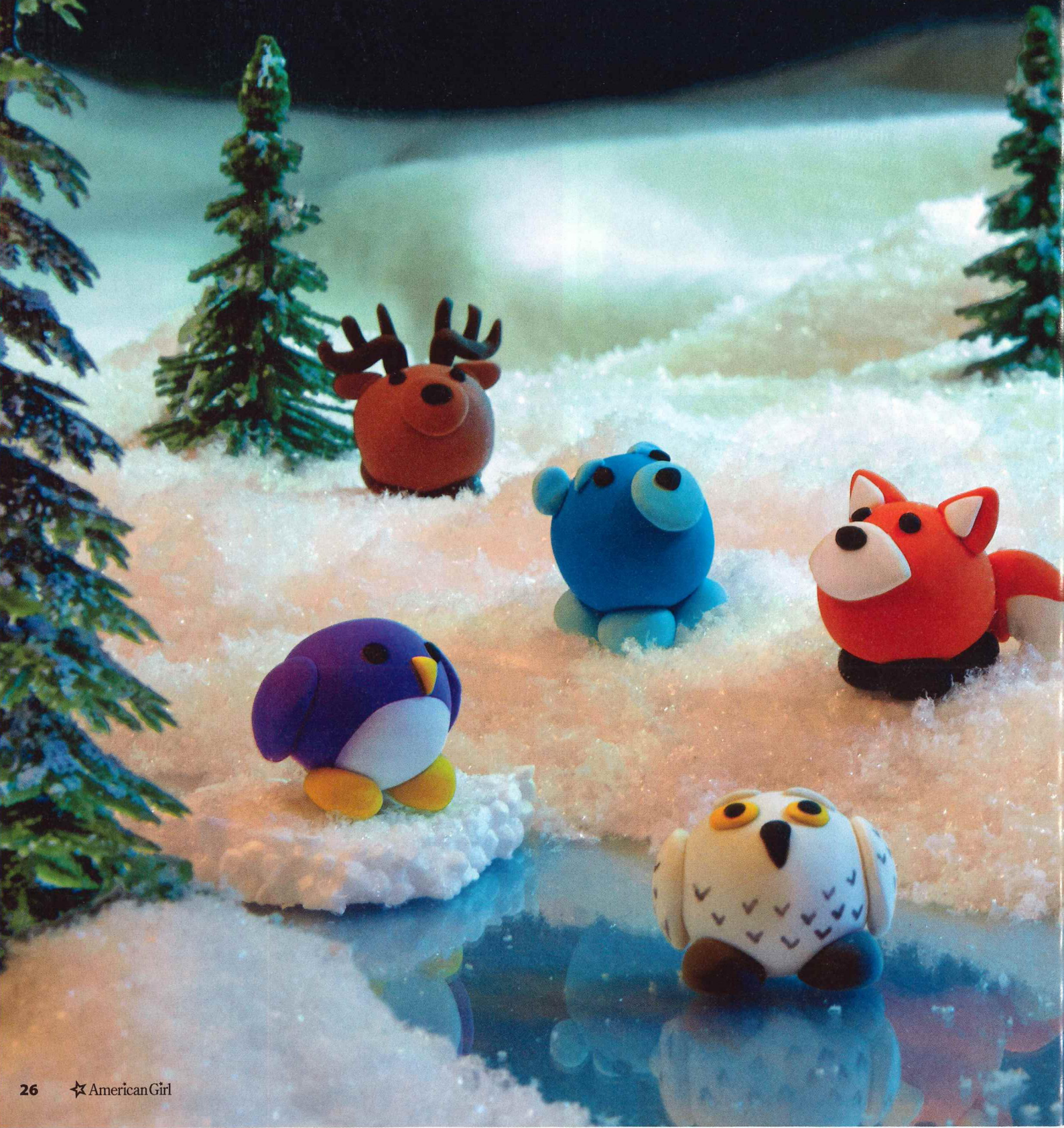
Paper Petals

Turn old magazines into a pretty bouquet. Use scissors to cut three different-sized paper circles. Snip slits all the way around the circles for petals. Trim the corners of each petal to make them rounded, and then attach the three flowers to each other with sticky dots. Cut a small paper circle for the center, and attach with a sticky dot. Attach a colorful straw stem using tape. Make more flowers, and place them in a vase for gift-giving. ★



Cool Critters

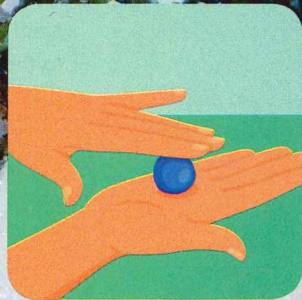
Make a winter wonderland of frosty friends!



YOU WILL NEED

- * nontoxic air-dry modeling clay
- * fine-point markers

Make a Basic Shape:



- 1.** Before you start, be sure to cover your workspace with plain paper or a disposable tablecloth. Roll a piece of clay into a small ball. This will be your animal's body. Set aside.



- 2.** Make 4 smaller clay balls. Arrange them in a four-leaf clover shape so that their sides touch. Press your thumb into the center to slightly flatten them. These will be your animal's feet. (Note: Birds will need only 2 feet.)



- 3.** Attach the body to the feet by gently pressing pieces together. Be careful not to squeeze the clay once you've made the basic shape. Now you're ready to make a frosty friend.

Illustrations: Monika Roe

Choose a Critter

Start with the basic shape and turn it into a wintry creature by adding ears, eyes, and more!

Snowy Owl

- * Flatten 2 small balls of white clay and stretch into ovals. Attach to the body for wings.
- * Stack 2 small flattened ovals for each eye (1 yellow and 1 black). Roll 2 small white rope shapes for eyebrows.
- * Make a small black triangle for the owl's beak.
- * Once the clay is dry, use a gray marker to draw small "v"s on the owl for its feathers.

Reindeer

- * Make 2 small balls of brown clay and flatten them. Attach to make the ears. Push down on the ears to shape them.
- * To make the reindeer's snout, flatten a small brown ball and attach. Add a smaller black ball for the nose.
- * Make 2 small balls of black clay for eyes and attach.
- * For antlers: Roll a thin rope of dark-brown clay and bend the ends in opposite directions. Attach two shorter ropes by pressing them against the first. Repeat to make another antler. Use a pencil to poke two holes on top of the head. Place the antlers in the holes.

Fox

- * Make 2 orange triangles for the fox's ears. Then make 2 small white triangles and attach to each ear.
- * Make eyes from 2 balls of black clay.
- * To make the fox's snout, flatten a white ball. Pinch opposite sides of the circle to make two points. Then add a tiny black ball for the nose.
- * To make a tail, press a piece of orange clay and white clay together. Roll clay into a rope. Pinch both ends to make a tail shape. Attach the orange end to the back of the fox.



Bear

- * Make 2 small balls of light-blue clay and flatten them into circles. Attach to make the ears.
- * To make the bear's snout, flatten a ball of light-blue clay and attach. Add a black triangle for the nose.
- * Make eyes out of 2 balls of black clay. For eyebrows, roll 2 small light-blue rope shapes.



Penguin

- * Before attaching the body to the feet, make a small white circle and press it against the penguin's purple body. Roll the ball to flatten the circle.
- * Stretch 2 pieces of purple clay into ovals. Attach to the sides for wings.
- * Use 2 balls of black clay for eyes.
- * Make a small orange triangle for the penguin's beak.



Bonus!

Turn to page 49 to learn how to make this friendly yeti!



The Good Side of Bad

by Carolyn Mackler

Maya is having a horrible day.
But with a little help from her
mom, she starts to see how
bad can really be good.



It all started with the fight. It was a Wednesday morning, a week before Christmas. Frances and I were on the bus to school together, just like every day. Frances is my best friend. She lives two streets away from me. We're both ten and have red hair, but other than that we don't look anything alike. She's really tall with green eyes, and her hair is long and straight. I'm on the smaller side, and my hair is short and wispy. When I got it cut a few weeks ago, my mom said I looked like a miniature movie star. She meant it as a compliment, but my little brother, Nico, started laughing. He howled so hard that cranberry juice shot out of his nose. I ran into my room crying.

I guess I'm sensitive that way.

That's what Frances was telling me on the bus ride to school on Wednesday morning. We live outside of Tampa, which is on the west coast of Florida. Even though it was the middle of December, it was seventy degrees out.

"Maya!" she said. "You're being too sensitive."

"There's no such thing as too sensitive," I told her. I shifted my violin case in my seat. I had my lesson right after school. I wasn't exactly looking forward to it. "I am who I am."

"But it's not right to get mad at me about my blue shirt," Frances said.

"And the blue headband," I said, gesturing to her hair. Then I pointed to her neck. "And the blue scarf."

Frances shook her hair angrily over her shoulders and turned away from me. We're not allowed to change seats on the bus once we've sat down.

Well, I was mad, too! Frances had ruined my Blue Plan. I'd recently decided that my new all-time favorite color was going to be blue. And so, for Christmas this year, I'd asked for a blue shirt with a scoop neck, and a blue headband with tiny flow-



ers embroidered on top, and a powder-blue scarf. I was going to wear the whole outfit, plus a pair of blue jeans, the day after winter break. I knew it was going to make a huge splash. I could already picture how everyone would *ooh* and *aah* when I walked into school after New Year's.

Because Frances was my best friend, I'd told her about my Blue Plan. When I was over at her house a few weeks ago, I'd showed her pictures of the things I wanted. She'd just said, "Cool." Nothing that would make me suspect what she was going to do behind my back.

The bus stopped in front of a stucco house with a row of palm trees out front. A third-grade girl got on. As she walked down the aisle, she paused in front of Frances. "Nice headband," she said. "I love the little violets on it."

"Thanks," Frances said quietly.

"Seriously?" I muttered under my breath. "I can't believe this."

As soon as she was gone, Frances turned back to me, "It's not my fault that Hanukkah came before Christmas!"

"But it is your fault that you asked for exactly what you knew I wanted. Now everyone will think I copied you. But you're the real copycat."

"I'm not a copycat," Frances said. Her cheeks were flushed and her arms were crossed over her chest.

I tightened my arms over my chest right back at her. "Well, you are!"

asked. "Are you with us?"

I grabbed my book and slowly found my seat.

And when Ms. Bledel gave us our spelling test, I totally forgot all the words I'd studied yesterday afternoon. I couldn't remember what had two *ts* and I think I put an *i* before an *e* somewhere.

And spelling was one of my best subjects!

All the fifth grade classes eat lunch together

Frances stole my Blue Plan and there was no denying it. We didn't talk for the rest of the ride to school.

Then I turned and glared out the window. Yesterday was the first night of Hanukkah. Hanukkah lasts for eight days, but I happen to know that Frances's family does their biggest gifts on the first night. The other nights they just get small things like a bracelet or a new pack of markers. Well, Frances's big gifts must have been a blue shirt with a scoop neck, a blue headband with tiny flowers embroidered on top, and a powder-blue scarf, because that's what she was wearing when she got on the bus this morning. Blue jeans, too.

Frances stole my Blue Plan and there was no denying it. We didn't talk for the rest of the ride to school.

My day turned out to be terrible. Frances wasn't in my class this year, but even so, I kept thinking about her. I could barely focus on anything. When all the other kids moved, to the tables for silent reading time, Ms. Bledel came over to me tapped my shoulder. "Maya?" she

in the cafeteria. Frances and I sit with the orchestra girls. But when I got to our usual table by the windows, I noticed she wasn't there. Finally I spotted her at a round table with her Spanish club friends. She wouldn't even look my way!

By the time my dad picked me up after school for my violin lesson, I was in the worst mood ever. As we drove across town, I stared glumly out the window at the strings of golden stars in front of the shops and the Santa decorations in people's yards. My dad grew up in Maryland, so he always says that Christmas in Florida is weirdly tropical. But for Nico and me, it's all we've ever known. It feels normal to hit the beach right after opening presents.

"You're quiet back there, Maya," my dad said, slowing at a red light. "Everything OK?"

"I'm not in the mood for my lesson," I said glumly. "I don't even want to play violin anymore." I'd been taking violin since kindergarten, and recently I'd wanted to switch to French horn. But whenever I asked my parents, they just said, *Don't give up on violin.*



"Maybe you're hungry," my dad said. After he pulled into the parking lot at the Huffington School of Music, he handed me a chocolate-nut cereal bar and an apple juice box.

I opened the cereal bar and nibbled off one corner. Ever since my fight with Frances, I'd barely had an appetite. I shoved the cereal bar into an open pocket of my backpack and sipped the juice box.

My violin teacher, Stephen, told me I wasn't focusing.

"Maya, where are you today?" he asked as I messed up a minuet.

It was almost like he'd been talking to Ms. Bledel.

After my lesson, my dad and I drove across town in silence. "Want to do some Christmas shopping on the way home?" he asked. "Have you thought about what you're getting for Nico?"

I shook my head. I was not in the mood for shopping. I was mad at Frances, but I also hated the fact that she might be mad at me back. "Can we just go

home?" I asked.

I dumped my backpack on the floor by the front door. I could see Nico at the dining room table doing his homework. I didn't say hi to him, and I didn't stop to pet our dog, even though he was wagging his tail. His name is Raggie, and he's a golden retriever. I just hurried up to my room and flopped facedown on my bed.

When my mom got home from work, she peeked into my doorway. "Dad said you're having a tough day. Want to talk about it?"

"Not really," I said. I was sitting on the floor by this point, looking over my spelling words. I could see right away that I'd gotten four wrong on the test.

Just then, my dad shouted from downstairs. "Everyone! Come here. Now."

My mom's eyes opened wide, and I could tell she was concerned. I scrambled off the rug, and we both hurried down the stairs.

"It's Raggie," my dad said. "How did he get this chocolate?"

As I looked at the cereal bar wrapper in my dad's hands, my legs went weak.

"That was mine," I said quietly, "from after school." I remembered putting it in my backpack, but I must not have zipped up the pocket.

"You know that chocolate is very dangerous for dogs," my mom said.

"We need to take him to the vet right now," my dad said.

As Nico grabbed Raggie's leash, my dad got





the car keys. I just stood there, completely frozen. If something happened to Raggie, it would be my fault. This really was the most terrible day ever.

"Maya!" my mom said from the front steps. "Get your shoes on. I called the vet and they know we're coming."

I tugged on my flats. I was just hurrying down the front steps when I tripped and went tumbling onto our brick path. I caught myself with my right arm. In that instant I knew that my day was going from terrible to much, much worse.

"Maya?" my dad called from the car. He was in the passenger seat and my mom was at the wheel. "Are you OK?"

"No," I whimpered, clutching my right arm. It hurt so badly I could hardly talk.

My dad leapt out of the car and knelt down next to me.

"You take Raggie to the vet with Nico," he called to my mom. "I'll bring Maya to the emergency room in the other car. It looks like she broke her arm."

The good news is that Raggie was OK. When my mom called my dad to check up on me, she told us that he threw up twice at the vet's office. The vet told my mom we were lucky. I cried into my dad's lap and promised I would never again leave chocolate anywhere that he could reach. My dad stroked my shoulder. They'd given me ice and pain medicine for my arm, so it wasn't feeling that bad anymore. But an X-ray revealed a hairline fracture right above the wrist.

"Don't worry," said the woman in the casting room. "You'll be back to yourself in six weeks. And the bone will be stronger."

"Really?" my dad asked.

She nodded. "The bone thatches together and becomes stronger at the site of the break." Then she smiled at me. "So, Maya, what color cast do you want?"

"Blue," I said right away. At least that would be the one exciting part about a broken arm.

"Sorry, honey." The woman sighed. "I ran out of blue this afternoon. How about yellow? Or pink?"

Or we even have tie dye!”

I groaned miserably and chose a plain white cast.

I didn't go to school the next day. My mom stayed home from work with me. She was on the computer in the dining room. I was sprawled on the couch staring at my book but not really concentrating. My arm was aching and my brain was tired, too. All I could think about was how everything had gone so wrong yesterday. If I hadn't gotten into a fight with Frances, I wouldn't have messed up my spelling test or left the chocolate for Raggie, and he wouldn't have eaten it, and I wouldn't have fallen on the way to the vet and broken my arm.

“OK,” my mom said, walking into the living room. “We're making Christmas cookies and you're going to tell me exactly what's going on.”

I followed my mom into the kitchen. She set a bowl on the counter and handed me a measuring cup and some flour. As I scooped up the soft flour and dumped it into the bowl, I spilled the story to my mom, even about the fight and how I called Frances a copycat and now I wasn't even sure we were friends anymore.

At first my mom didn't say anything. I measured the sugar and she melted the butter, and she let me crack two eggs and lick the teaspoon after I poured in the vanilla. We were so busy making cookies, for a tiny second I forgot that my arm was in a cast.

Once we'd mixed the dough, my mom put it in the fridge to cool. Then she poured us glasses of lemonade, and I followed her onto our back porch.

“Let's think about this,” she said, handing me a pillow.

I propped my cast up on a pillow – the doctor had said I should elevate it whenever I'm sitting—and

took a sip of lemonade. “About what?”

“About the good side of all this bad.”

I stared at my mom. I had no idea what she was talking about.

“Let's start with this one,” she said. “What's the worst part about your broken arm, other than the pain?”

I shrugged. “I guess my cast. Like, how it's white. And I can't play violin anymore. The doctor said it'll be at least two months.”

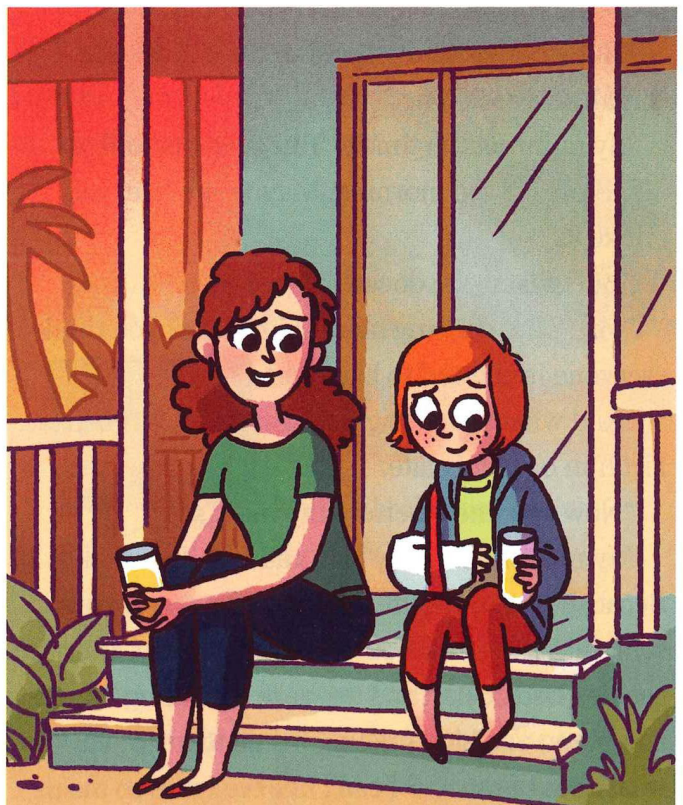
My mom smiled at me. “So there!”

“What?” I asked. I was really confused.

“You've been begging to take a break from violin. Let's call Huffington and see if they can switch you to French horn while you're in the cast. I bet you can do that with one arm in a sling.”

I smiled a little. Now that would be cool.

“And a white cast,” my mom said, “is so much better for signing. We can get a pack of metallic markers.”



“Or all different shades of blue,” I said.

My mom nodded enthusiastically. “See, Maya, now you’re getting it. There’s a good side to almost every bad.”

to her. I’m mad and all, but—”

“That,” my mom said, pointing to the newly frosted cookies, “is what these are for.”

Then she handed me a Tupperware bowl and

**My mom nodded enthusiastically.
“See, Maya, now you’re getting it.
There’s a good side to almost every bad.”**

My mom and I finished our lemonade. We went into the house and pulled the dough out of the fridge. I sprinkled the counter with flour. Since I could only use one arm, she rolled it out. Then I pressed in the cookie cutters to make stars and reindeer, Santas and menorahs.

“Another good side,” my mom said as she slid the baking tray into the oven, “is that I get to stay home and make cookies with you today.”

“But what about my spelling test?” I asked.
“I really messed it up.”

My mom set the timer. “You go in and talk to Ms. Bledel in the morning. Maybe she’ll let you retake it.”

“But what if she doesn’t?” I asked.

“I bet she will,” my mom said. “Don’t you think everyone is allowed to have a bad day?”

“And what about Raggie?” I said. “I can’t believe I let him eat chocolate.”

“Now you know better,” my mom said.

My mom ruffled my hair and I smiled weakly. Because even though I got what she was saying, something was still bothering me. Finally, after the cookies had cooled and we were spreading on red and green and blue frosting, I said to my mom, “So what about Frances? I can’t believe I was so mean

said, “Fill it with a mix of Christmas and Hanukkah cookies.”

I stared at her.

“Are you up for a walk?” she asked.

I nodded slowly.

“Then let’s go, Maya. We’re walking over to Frances’s house. The school bus just dropped her off.”

My mom and I knocked on Frances’s front door. Her dad let us in and led us into the kitchen. The second Frances and I saw each other, we both started to cry.

“You broke your arm?” she said, pointing at my sling. “You weren’t at school today, but I figured you were sick.”

“I fell last night,” I said, wiping my eyes.

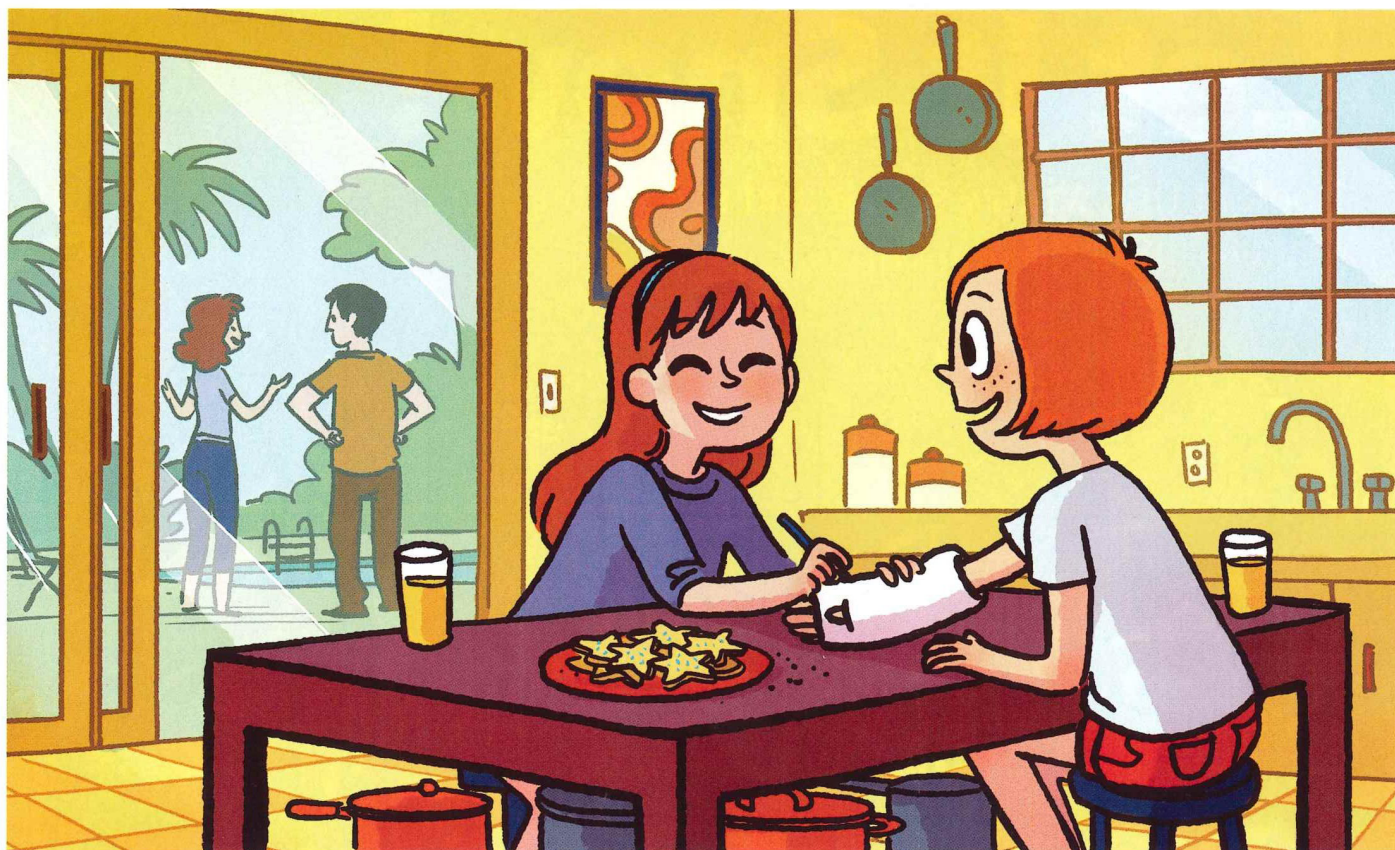
“Why didn’t you call me?” Frances said. “I would have come over.”

My throat was so tight it took me a second to talk. “I am so sorry,” I finally said.

“No, I’m sorry,” she said.

Her dad fixed us a plate of cookies and poured two glasses of milk. Then he and my mom went out back to look at their new pool.

“Maya, it’s all my fault,” Frances said. “I ruined



your Blue Plan. I just thought it was so cool. I never should have asked for those things for Hanukkah.”

“Maybe there’s a good side to it,” I suggested.

Frances broke off a corner of her cookie and popped it in her mouth. “Like what?”

“Like if I get my blue outfit for Christmas, we can both wear them the day after break. Then we’ll make double the splash.”

“Really?” Frances asked. “You’d be OK with that?”

I nodded. “Definitely. The plan will be called Blue Times Two.”

Frances smiled. “And you’ll let me sign your cast?”

“You can be the first one,” I said.

“Blue?” she asked, smiling.

“How’d you guess?”

Frances laughed. As she leaned over to sign my cast with a royal blue marker, I suddenly realized

something. That woman in the hospital told me that when a bone is broken, it grows back even stronger. Well, maybe that’s the same with Frances and me. I bet our friendship will be even stronger after this, our own good side to the bad. ★



Meet the Author



Me and my son

Carolyn Mackler

My son broke his arm last winter. We (like Maya) played a game where we tried to find the good side to the bad—he ate delicious mac and cheese in the hospital. His whole class made him cards. And he (unlike Maya) did get a very cool blue cast!

Let It Snow!

Look at this wintry scene and see if you can answer all of the questions.





Questions

1. How many dogs can you find in this scene?
2. How many hats have pom-poms on top?
3. Find and circle the only rabbit.
4. How many birds are there?
5. Find the two burned-out holiday lights.
6. How many deer are there?
7. Find and circle the cat.
8. What color are the boots on the porch of the cabin?
9. Find and circle the only raccoon.
10. How many skaters are there?

Turn to the next page for answers.

Let It Snow!

Answers

1. six

2. seven

3. See below.

4. four

5. See below.

6. seven

7. See below.

8. red

9. See below.

10. six





This or That? Ha-Ha-Holidays!



Yule laugh out loud when you answer these funny questions with a friend.

Would you rather...



wear bells on your shoes to school



a sweater that lights up?

make ornaments from your dinner leftovers



from whatever is under your bed?

make a hat out of garland



out of gingerbread?

sing a song in front of an audience about gravy



fruitcake?

get a stocking full of pancakes



one filled with maple syrup?

sleep on a bed made of candy canes



one made from Christmas wreaths?

wear a yeti costume in a holiday play



while singing carols around your neighborhood?



drink eggnog with a dash of hot sauce



hot chocolate with mashed potatoes on top?

throw a holiday party in a hot jungle



on a frozen glacier?

take a goldfish holiday shopping with you



a houseplant?

sled down a mountain of cucumbers



toothbrushes?



Don't **hog** all the gifts!



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Comfort & Joy

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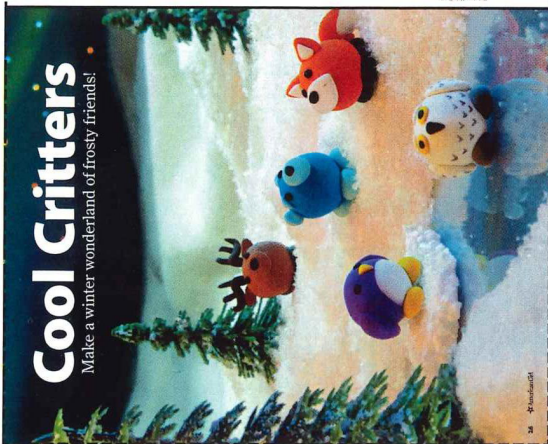


Time to Sparkle

Photo: Ryan McVay/Digital Vision/Thinkstock

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Cool Critters

Make a winter wonderland of frosty friends!



Cider Mixers

Slide up your favorite mixer with a splash of new flavor! Store with a dash of cinnamon and a dash of orange juice. Then heat it in a microwave until warm.

- ★ Vanilla. Add to fragrance vanilla extract.
- ★ Cinnamon. Add to fragrance.



Microwave Mels

Warm up with a delicious melt, a microwave meal. Top one second swirls on top. Microwave until the swirls are melted and the cheese is bubbly. Then serve with a dash of orange juice.

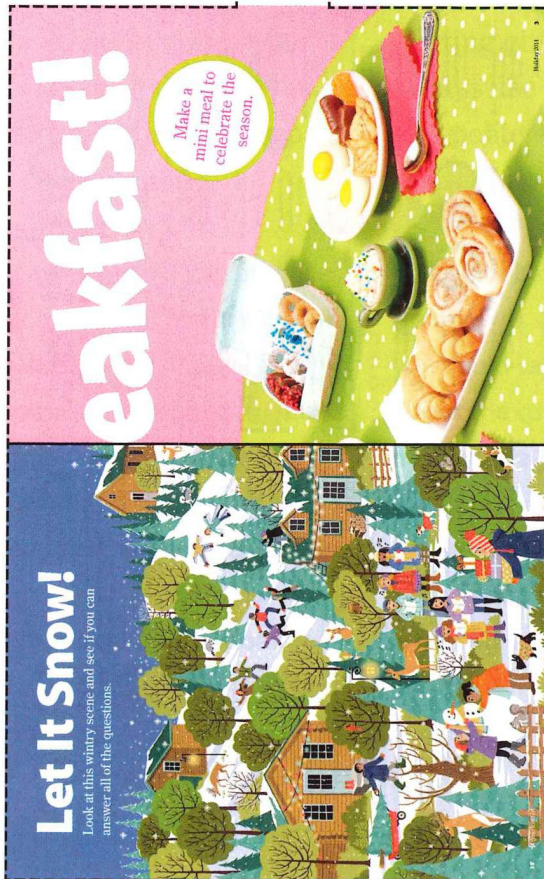
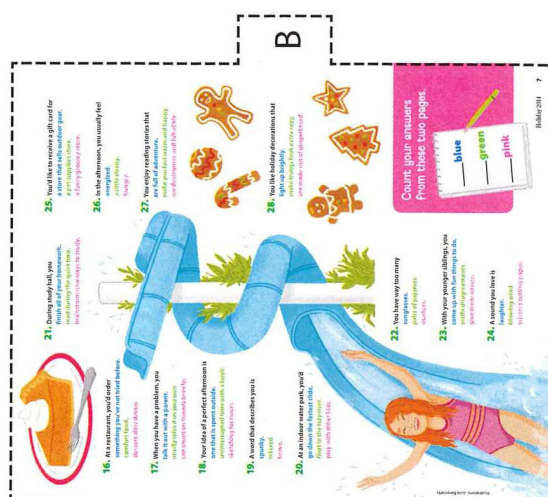
- ★ Melted & Cheese. Top a swirl with a dash of cheese.
- ★ Melted & Cheese. Top a swirl with a dash of cheese.
- ★ Melted & Cheese. Top a swirl with a dash of cheese.



The Good Side of Bad

by Carolyn Mackler

Maya is having a horrible day. But with a little help from her mom, she starts to see how bad can really be good.



Let It Snow!

Look at this wintry scene, and see if you can answer all of the questions.

eakfast!

Make a mini meal to celebrate the season.



New puzzles and crafts add pop to playtime

American Girl



Continued

With the Mini Mag, you can make a miniature copy of *American Girl* for your doll or stuffed animal. All you need are scissors and a stapler. Read the directions all the way through before you begin.

1. Cut out each pair of pages only on the dotted lines. Be sure to cut around the tabs marked with the letters A, B, C, and D.

2. Stack the pages on top of one another in the order shown below, with the letters on the tabs facing up.

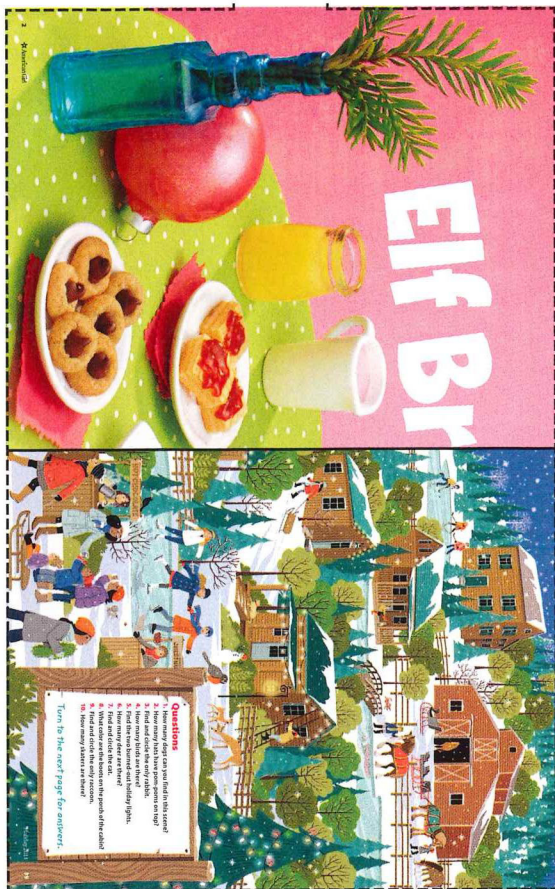


**Mini
Mag**

3. Fold the stack of pages in half along the solid line in the center. The cover of the magazine should now be on top. Run your fingernail down the folded edge to help the pages lie flat.



4. Open the folded stack. Staple along the center line. Cut off the tabs, and you're done!





HELP!

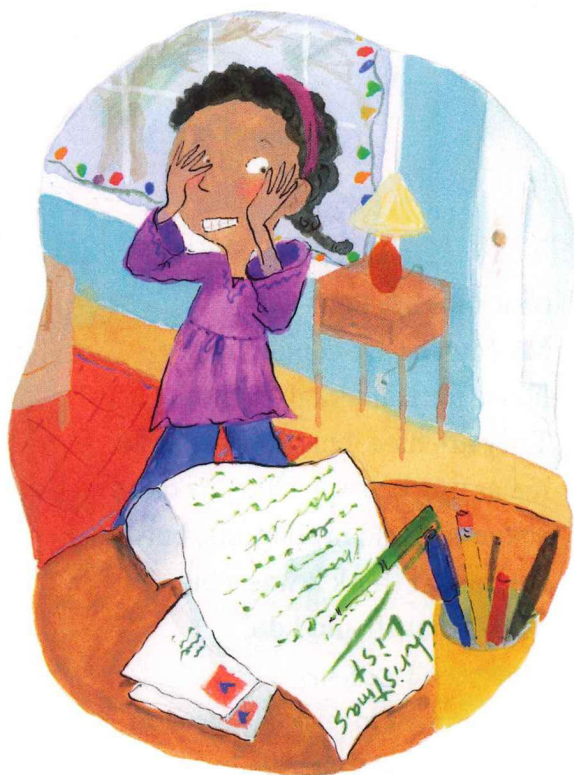


Dear American Girl,

My mom left her gift list out on the table, and I saw it! Now I know all about a big gift she's bought to surprise me. I feel so bad.

Guilty

First, don't make yourself feel worse by spoiling anyone else's surprise. If you saw others' gifts on the list, keep that to yourself. You don't have to tell your mom that you saw the list, but you might feel less guilty if you did. If you want to, tell her. If you don't, you can still be happy on the big day. Enjoy your gifts, and focus on the spirit of the holiday.



Dear American Girl,

I've been invited to visit my aunt for Christmas! The problem: I'd have to fly, and I'd be by myself. I'm kind of scared.

Help!

Sure, flying alone can make a girl nervous. But the plane staff will know that your parents aren't with you, so you'll have adults to call on if you need them. To stay busy on the flight, bring books or a movie player, or else just gaze out the window. Look for cool shapes in the clouds, or imagine what's going on in the towns you see below. You'll be with your aunt in no time.



Dear American Girl,

The solo in the winter play is mine! I'm good at my part, but I'm scared. What if I mess up in front of everyone?

ScaredyCat

You'll do a great job if you practice like crazy. Instead of picturing yourself messing up, imagine giving an awesome performance. To relax right before you go onstage, take deep breaths and shake your arms. When you're onstage, focus on the story you're telling. You know you're good at your part, and so does the director—after all, there's a reason you got the part!



Dear American Girl,

Getting gifts is great. But I don't always like what I get. How can I be polite without lying and saying I love something?

polite

You don't have to lie to be polite. If the gift is some kind of clothing, you could say something positive about the color or fabric. If it's a homemade gift, you could say how nice it was of the giver to spend time making you something. If it's just plain weird, say you've never seen anything so unique. For any gift at all, you can—and should—say, "Thank you for thinking of me!"





Dear American Girl,

My cousins are coming to my house for Hanukkah this year. They are nice, but they don't like me as much as they like my older sister. I've told my parents, but they didn't think it was a big deal. What should I do?

neglected cousin

It's important to relax and focus on being yourself right now. Trying to get your cousins' attention might make things worse, and if you spend their whole visit worrying, you'll never have any fun at all. Talk to your sister ahead of time and plan something to do with your cousins that you'll all like. If you're having a good time with your cousins, they'll probably enjoy being with you, too.



Dear American Girl,

Every December a place in my town sells Christmas trees. But there are so many left over after the holidays! Every time I drive by and see all of the beautiful trees that will go to waste, I feel like crying. What's up with that?

want to help



Seeing trees go to waste is hard. But it might make you feel better to know that many cities grind up old Christmas trees to make wood chips for use in gardens or as path material for hiking trails. That way, many trees do get used for pretty purposes, even if they don't have ornaments hung on them. To do something earth-friendly yourself, focus on the things you use and buy, and do your best not to be wasteful.



Dear American Girl,

It seems as if I have less and less Christmas spirit each year. I used to get so excited about everything when I was younger, but I don't feel that way anymore. I wish I did.
spiritless

True, the holidays can start to feel different as you get older. But that's when you learn that Christmas isn't about gifts or decorations or food. It's about the joy of giving. (That might sounds cheesy, but it's completely true.) So do something special for someone this holiday season. Make cards for members of the armed forces. Participate in a local food drive. Or get together with friends or family to make sure that kids at a shelter have gifts to open on Christmas. You'll feel a glow from helping others—a sure sign that your spirit has returned.



Need advice?

Got advice? Write:
Help!

American Girl magazine

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Behind the Scenes

Holiday Edition!

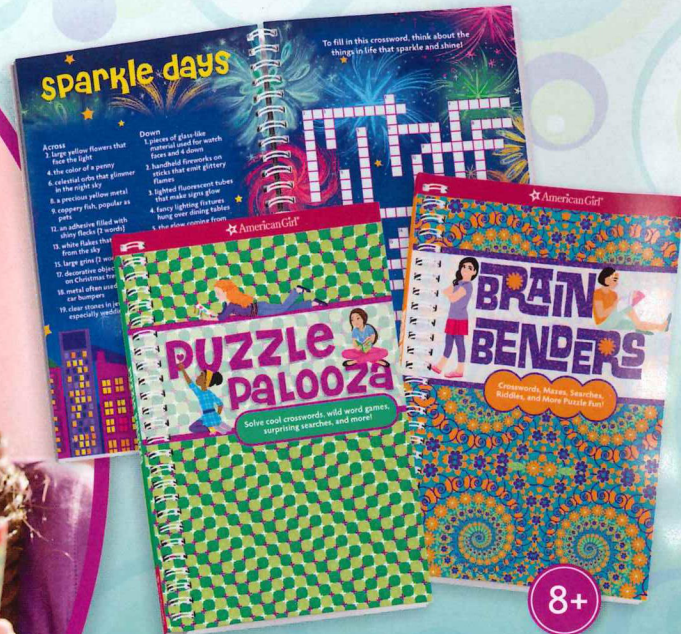


Oh no! A hungry yeti sneaked in and ate the elves' breakfast. Now you can add a little mischief to your own holiday table.

1. Roll a piece of white clay into an oval shape. This will be the yeti's body. Set aside.
2. For the yeti's feet: Roll a small piece of blue clay into a ball. Repeat to make another foot. Press the body down on top of the feet to attach them.
3. Use two more pieces of blue clay for the yeti's hands. Roll them into balls and then flatten them. For the arms, use white clay to make 2 thick rope shapes. Attach one hand shape to each arm by pressing against one of the ends. Press one arm against each side of the body.
4. For the yeti's face: Roll a piece of blue clay into a ball, and then flatten. Use a finger to make an indentation at the top of the circle. Press the circle against the body where the face should be. Use two small clay circles (1 white and 1 blue) for each eye.
5. Let the clay dry overnight. Once it's dry, use a fine-point marker to draw a mouth and eyelashes.



New puzzles and crafts add **pop** to playtime



These books encourage girls to bend their brains, flex their logic, stretch their problem-solving skills, and celebrate life's exciting moments with cool crosswords, wild word games, surprising searches, and more!

Creating extra-special greeting cards to celebrate every occasion is as easy as gluing on glitter and popping up the pictures.



American Girl®

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AG'S To-You TAGS

Personalize your presents with our adorable gift labels.



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Creative ways to use your gift labels:

1.

Make your own wrapping paper. Wrap a gift in plain paper, and then decorate with stickers and colorful doodles.

2.

Make your own holiday cards or thank-you notes. Match a sticker to colorful card stock, fold, and write a sweet note.

3.

Make a friend's day. Without her seeing, place a sticker on a friend's backpack or notebook.

4.

Make tiny artwork. Place a sticker on a piece of patterned paper, and display on a small easel or in a mini frame.

Happy holidays!



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